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B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Will the Government enquire into the matter whether the distribution is in accordance with the rules or in violation thereof?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The hon. Member may first address the District Educational Council and, if he is dissatisfied with that answer, he can address the Government who will do all they can."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have imposed any restrictions on the District Educational Council to grant these concessions up to a maximum of 50 per cent?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"They have."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"Is it not restricting the discretion of the District Educational Council?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The matter was fully considered and it was thought that there was nothing wrong in imposing that restriction."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction has called for the opinions of the District Educational Councils whether this 50 per cent is low and whether they would like to give the power to the Director of Public Instruction to grant the concessions up to 75 per cent?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I am not aware of it."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Is it not a fact that cent per cent has been recommended by the District Educational Council?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Not after this Government Order was passed."

The hon. the President:—"These questions are not quite relevant."

Withdrawal of fee concessions admissible to Mappilla students of the Manjeri High School by the District Board, Malabar.

* 22 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Malabar District Board has issued an order to the effect that full fees should be collected from the Mappilla students of Manjeri High School irrespective of production of poverty certificate;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that 25 out of 47 Mappilla students of the said school have discontinued their studies owing to inability to pay full fees insisted on by the above order of the District Board;

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(c) whether the Government Order allowing half-fee concession to Muslim students on production of poverty certificate to the satisfaction of the head of the institution, is binding on the District Board; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any action for the cancellation of the said order of the District Board?

A.—(a) & (d) The Government are not aware that any order particularly applicable to the Mappilla students of the Manjeri High School has been issued by the District Board. The President, District Board, has, however, informed the Government that in order to balance its budget the District Board has felt compelled to restrict the number of pupils in receipt of fee concessions to 5 per cent of the total number of pupils.

As the whole question of fee concessions is at the present moment under examination by the Government no action has been taken on the President's report.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The rules relating to the grant of half-fee concessions apply to the Malabar District Board as to all other local bodies.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether the Government realize that the resolution passed by the Malabar District Board is in violation of the rules, as regards half-fee concessions, passed by the Government? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Yes; to some extent in contravention of Rule 92."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it not the duty of the Government to ask the District Board to cancel the resolution and to conform to the Order issued by the Government? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" The Government cannot possibly enforce the order when they are told that the district board has no money."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Is it not a fact that the grants under rule 92, given to compensate the income foregone owing to concessions given to pupils of backward classes, are included in the block grants allowed to district board schools? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" The block grant represents the average of a certain number of years and it includes half-fee concession grant also."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Will the Government consider the question of giving the fees foregone by giving concessions, separately from the block grants? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I am afraid it is not possible now under the existing financial stringency."

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether the Government will pursue a policy of *laissez faire* if the district board doubles the fees instead of reducing it, in order to make up its revenue? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I do not know whether the Government can interfere with the powers of the district board."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the order referred to in clause (*a*) is applicable to only Mappilla students, or it is applicable to all backward communities? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" All backward communities."

Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo:—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say whether rule 92 has been abrogated altogether? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" No."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether the district boards are free to violate the Government Order passed by the Government when they have no money? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" They are not free to violate; they have only reduced the number of pupils getting the concession."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that district boards are very reluctant to give concessions to deserving students, because the actual expenditure under this head is not given to them by the Government? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I am not aware."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" In view of the fact that the fee income from these 25 students will be very a negligible amount, will the Government direct the district board to give concession that is allowable under the rules? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" As I have said in the printed answer the whole question of half-fee concession is under the consideration of the Government."

Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo:—" May I ask whether rule 92 is compulsory and whether every local board is bound to follow it? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" It is compulsory so far as I know."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the order refers to the Manjeri High School only? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" To all the district board high schools."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is the order of the district board or of the President of the board? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" It is the unanimous resolution of the district board."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" How many Mappilla members are on the district board? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" A number of them."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" The hon. Minister stated that the question is under the consideration of the Government. May I ask how long will it take for the Government to come to a conclusion? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I cannot make a prophecy; as quickly as we can."

Excise

Proposals for the reorganization of the Excise Advisory Committees.

* 23 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals to reorganize the Excise Advisory Committees; and

(*b*) if so, what they are and when they are likely to come into effect?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) With reference to the suggestions made by certain hon. Members in the course of the budget debate on the 'Excise' demand in the Legislative Council on 13th March 1933, the Commissioner of Excise has been asked to examine the question of the enlargement of the powers of Excise Advisory Committees. His proposals are awaited.

Number of liquor shops closed as a measure of prohibition.

* 24 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the number of liquor shops is that remains closed now in each district as a measure of prohibition;

(*b*) whether prohibition was tried in complete taluks and districts and, if so, where;

(*c*) how many liquor shops have again been reopened in Salem district in April last and on what grounds;

(*d*) whether the Government have issued strict instructions to the Excise officials in the matter of putting down illicit manufacture and illicit sales of liquor; and

(*e*) if so, what they are?